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TELEGRAM

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XR DEF 18-3 AVS (VI)

52/42

ACTION ACDA-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12

OST-01 SCI-05 NIC-01 AEC-11 CIA-04 RSR-01 /139 W

053300

R 131255Z JAN 70
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580
INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O R R E C T E D - C O P Y (TEXT)

SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO SECRETARY LAIRD'S PRESS CONFERENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>7/15/80</i>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

1. IN CONTRAST TO RED STAR'S JAN 9 TREATMENT OF SEC LAIRD'S JAN 7 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SUCH MOVES AS ACCELERATED SAFEGUARD DEPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ULMS OR FOLLOW-ON BOMBERS COULD ENDANGER SALT, RECENT SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF SEC LAIRD'S REMARKS OMIT SUCH AN IMPLICATION. MOST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT CAME FROM MFA PRESS CHIEF ZAMYATIN AT JAN 13 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, IZVESTIYA (JAN 12) AND TRUD (JAN 13) FAIL TO ECHO THE RED STAR LINE. WHILE PRAVDA HAS YET TO COMMENT, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST REGIME HAS LAID DOWN LINE THAT SEC LAIRD'S REMARKS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN AS SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO SALT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AT MFA PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 13 ON HOW SOVIETS ASSESS SEC LAIRD'S SAFEGUARD REMARKS IN CONTEXT OF SALT, PRESS CHIEF ZAMYATIN TOOK RELAXED LINE. WHILE ASSERTING THAT SOVIET THREAT WAS OF LAIRD'S "OWN INVENTION" AND THAT THERE ARE FORCES IN US WHICH WISH TO CREATE OBSTACLES TO SALT, ZAMYATIN SAID MOSCOW HAS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD SALT AND HOPES STATEMENTS SUCH AS LAIRD'S WILL NOT HAMPER SALT WHEN IT RESUMES.

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3. IZVESTIYA (JAN 12) AND TRUD (JAN 13) DISCUSSED SEC LAIRD'S PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT DID NOT REITERATE RED STAR'S LINE. IZVESTIYA'S "INTERNATIONAL NOTES" ARTICLE BY A. ARTAMONOV DEBUNKS US "PROPAGANDA MACHINE'S" ASSURANCES OF REDUCED 1971 DEFENSE BUDGET, USING SEC LAIRD'S DISCUSSION OF SAFEGU AND STUDY OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AS EVIDENCE THAT US TAXPAYER WILL BEAR HEAVIER BURDEN NEXT YEAR. ARTAMONOV CLAIMS US WANTS ACCELERATED DESIGN TEMPO FOR ULMS AND BOMBER, NOT FEASIBILITY STUDY AS SEC LAIRD CLAIMED.

4. BOTH IZVESTIYA AND TRUD, WHICH MENTIONS LAIRD PRESS CONFERENCE AT BEGINNING OF LONG CRITIQUE OF PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES IN WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMN, CLAIM THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RESPONDING TO DEMANDS OF MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR MORE ARMS. THIS STANDARD EXPLANATION IS SOMETHING OF AN IMPROVEMENT OVER RED STAR'S HINTS THAT THE USG MEANS TO SABOTAGE SALT. DECON AFTER 1/15/71. KLOSSON

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